

ACEC Chapter Awards 2011 - 2012





December 6, 2012

Ms. Stephanie Horgan
ACEC California
1303 J Street, Suite 450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2011-2012 Annual Report**

Dear Ms. Horgan:

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter is recognized as one of California's most effective chapters in promoting statewide and local issues. It is influential in the industry and has succeeded in uniting its members with local legislation, business opportunities, emerging technologies and industry trends.

This past remarkable year has been packed with challenges and substantial success. Our annual report will showcase the results of addressing these challenges and implementing our strategic plan. The Chapter is successful for a multitude of reasons: our board of directors' experience and dedication, our increasingly recognized (by local legislators and infrastructure owners) role in supporting legislation that promotes our industry standing, our monthly programs that feature esteemed guest speakers, and political outreach through affiliated programs and the support of local candidates.

Additionally, we have ongoing successful liaison committees that provide a forum for open dialogue between members and entities including the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans District 7, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Ports of Long Beach. We have also been extremely successful in promoting the industry and enhancing public awareness of services through an extensive student outreach program, a mentoring program, legislative activities, special events, membership recruitment, recognition of deserving members of the industry and sponsorship opportunities.

The Chapter is dedicated to initiating programs and activities that will secure a new level of achievement in the industry. To do this, we are committed to and focused on the basic issues that are the foundation of success for our member firms. The Board's focus is on attracting new members, and balancing leadership among small and large firms as we recognize that the Chapter's leadership must reflect the firms we serve.

Consistent with our strategic plan, we have made significant progress in increasing board member activities with the ACEC state board and its committees. We believe our participation will enhance our ability to support our industry locally and promote important legislation.

Central to retaining a mission and vision that is consistent with the state and national organization, we continue to enjoy the benefit of engaging Kelly Asper, our executive director. Kelly works closely with the Board to ensure that we execute our plan and serve our member firms. We succeed as an organization through the dedication of our volunteer board members combined with the guiding hand of our executive director.



California

Los Angeles County Chapter

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The attached submission provides a detailed discussion of the Chapter's accomplishments and activities. We very much appreciate your consideration of the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter for the 2011-2012 Chapter Award. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 213.610.8630, or by e-mail at Ray.Fares@AECOM.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Fares", written in a cursive style.

Ray Fares
President, 2012 - 2013
ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter

Chapter Awards

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR All Chapters

DEADLINE: December 7, 2012

of Copies: 10 Copies

CHAPTER NAME: Los Angeles County

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: Ray Fares

NUMBER OF CHAPTER MEMBERS: 88

SECTION 1

ACEC California provided the information below.

1. Chapter firms net membership change: 10 pts +10%

2. Number of individual chapter members serving on ACEC California committees out of total number of committee members :10 pts 34 / 349 = 9.7%

3. Number of committee calls attended by a chapter representative out of total number of calls possible:

a. Membership Development Committee: (5 pts) 12 / 12 = 100%

b. Grassroots Committee: (5 pts) 5 / 5 = 100%

c. Chapter Officers Calls: (5 pts) 2 / 3 = 67%

4. Director attendance at State Board Meetings out of total Director representation possible: (15 pts)

14 / 16 = 87.5%

5. Number of individual members attending the ACEC California Annual Conference out of total individual chapter members: (10 pts) 5 / 88 = 5.6%

6. Number of individual members attending in the State Legislative Visit Day out of total number of chapter members: (5 pts) 12 / 88 = 13.6%

7. Number of individual members attending the ACEC Consulting Congress Day out of total number of chapter members: (5 pts) 3 / 88 = 3.4%

Chapter Awards

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

SECTION 2

Please complete the section below.

Chapter to provide the information required below.

Chapter Representative Completing Application: Kelly Asper

Phone Number: (562) 439-3950 Email: office@acec-la.org

8. Average attendance at chapter meetings out of total number of members: **(15 pts)** The Chapter held ten chapter meetings (including the annual banquet) that averaged 142 attendees per event.

9. How many times in the last program year has your chapter, as a chapter, communicated with local officials?: **(10 pts)** We communicate regularly with local officials throughout the year, and estimate that number to exceed 50.

10. Number of local chapter match fundraising events for legislative candidates: **(10 pts)**
We held one fundraiser for Raul Bocanegra, Assembly candidate for District 39, that raised \$5,500.

11. Does your chapter have a scholarship program? If so, how much money was awarded to students in the last program year?: **(10 pts)**
Yes, this year we awarded \$30,000 in scholarships.

12. Does the chapter have an independent website or regularly maintain the chapter's page on the ACEC California website? **(10 pts)**

Yes, the Chapter's website is: www.acec-la.org.

ESSAY QUESTION

On a separate sheet (**2 pages max**) please provide an essay that describes how your chapter has successfully promoted the industry locally and enhanced public awareness of services provided by member firms through student outreach, PR, recruitment efforts and special events. In addition, please describe how your chapter has participated in improving business practices, i.e. involvement in environmental enhancements such as Earth Day or LEED. **(60 pts)**



2011-2012 ACEC CA LA County Chapter Awards Nomination

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter has been successful in promoting the industry and enhancing public awareness of services through a student outreach program, a mentoring program, legislative activities, special events, membership recruitment, recognition of the industry's deserving members, and sponsorship opportunities.

PROMOTING INDUSTRY LOCALLY

Monthly Luncheon. The chapter has a thriving monthly luncheon program that brings owners together with the consulting engineering community. Owners present their upcoming capital improvement and expansion programs, and contracting opportunities. This past year we hosted nine luncheons featuring speakers from owner organizations such as Los Angeles World Airports, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and also hosted panels on hot industry issues such as commuter rail in Southern California, public/private partnerships and design-build project delivery. These programs offer great learning opportunities and also unsurpassed networking.

Legislative Fundraiser. This May, we held a fundraiser for Mr. Raul Bocanegra, Assembly candidate for District 39. Mr. Bocanegra has been a leader in local efforts to build safer livable communities, and has played a key role in securing affordable housing for working families and seniors across the Valley. He helped develop neighborhood public safety programs such as "block clubs," and advocated for streetlight and traffic safety improvements. This event raised more than \$5,500.

Legislative Visit Day. This year, 12 members of the Chapter traveled to Sacramento to visit the legislators who represent our County. Under the leadership of Stephanie Wagner, our team met with all 38 legislators or their staff, driving home key themes including protection of professional engineer (PE) licensing and expanded use of alternative delivery methods, including public/private partnerships.

Legislative Achievement Award. Presented at the Chapter's Annual Banquet, this award recognizes outstanding leadership in promoting public infrastructure and the consulting engineering community. This year's award went to the Honorable

Cameron Smyth, elected in 2006 and representing the 38th Assembly District which includes the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, Simi Valley and Glendale.

ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS

Student Outreach

Committed to offering opportunities for the next generation of engineers and surveyors, Chapter engagement includes student education, scholarships and internships.

National Engineers Week (E-Week). With the help of our member firms, 96 presenters made 155 presentations to 9,000 high school students as part of the "Become an Engineer" campaign. Rubina Chaudhary spearheaded the effort that included well-attended Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Caltrans District 7 training sessions as well as presentations from 29 firms and eight public agencies.

Scholarships. Established in 2005, the Chapter's Scholarship Fund honors qualified engineering undergraduate and graduate students attending Los Angeles County colleges and universities. Each student demonstrates a high level of academic achievement from an accredited engineering program; participates in professional associations; outlines accomplishments and/or internships directly related to the practice of engineering; and provides commendations and endorsements from faculty. Six scholarships totaling \$30,000 were awarded. These men and women surpassed the criteria, and the Chapter is excited to assist them in continuing their education and impact on society.

High School Internships. As a subcommittee of the ACEC-CA/Caltrans District 7 Professional Liaison Committee, ACEC-CalsOP's mission is to attract 11th and 12th grade students towards careers in engineering and related fields. ACEC-CalsOP participated in the City of Los Angeles Public Works High School Internship Program (PWHiP) with Chapter members conducting interviews, and employing, hosting and mentoring interns. After going through satellite job skills workshops and interviews, 39 were selected for a five-week paid internship offered by 21 participating firms. Five CalsOP firms employed six interns, and five interns worked at Caltrans District 7.



Committee Participation. The Chapter, represented by Rubina Chaudhary, is an active participant on the Education Committee. Rubina is also a Trustee of the Scholarship Foundation.

Small Business Outreach

CalMentor. The Chapter supports Caltrans' CalMentor program, designed to encourage and support small businesses through voluntary partnerships with established firms. This past year, 10 Chapter member firms participated as mentors, and the Chapter is currently assisting in planning and funding the February 2013 CalMentor Awards luncheon.

Public Relations

In March, at the request of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's office, the Chapter (represented by Stephanie Wagner) attended a press conference to encourage House leaders to approve a transportation bill that would keep funding at current levels and include the America Fast Forward loan program. An important event for our Chapter, this program is essential to accelerate Los Angeles County's Measure R transit program.

Recruitment Efforts

A vibrant chapter with outstanding membership growth and participation, the Chapter's recruiting efforts include welcoming non-members at monthly luncheons and retention of existing members through successful programming. Our success is evidenced by the Chapter winning the Large Chapter Membership Champion award for top recruiting in the 2011-2012 membership drive as well as event attendance growth from 30 program attendees in 2005, to an average of 142 attendees this year with a total year attendance of 1,415.

Special Events

Annual Banquet. The Chapter's Annual Achievement Awards Banquet provides hundreds of members and guests the opportunity to enjoy an evening of networking and celebration. Awards presented include Legislative Achievement, Engineering Achievement, Client of the Year, Member of the Year and Scholarships.

Golf Tournament. In March the skies cleared up for one day in honor of our annual Charity Golf Tournament at Rolling Hills Country Club in Palos Verdes. It was attended by more than 144 members and non-members, and raised more than \$15,000.

Architecture, Engineering, Construction (AEC) Masquerade Ball. ACEC-LA was one of the key hosts of the AEC Masquerade Ball held in October 2011. This fall celebration was the first ever for professional organizations to come together and provide membership and networking opportunities. With an exceptional lineup of honored VIP guests, participants enjoyed an evening of networking while supporting a great cause. Proceeds benefitted Orangewood Children's Foundation, Stand Up for Kids, and Olive Crest. A total of \$15,000 was raised - \$5,000 per charity.

IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES

Liaison Committees

The Chapter's Liaison Committees provide a dialogue forum for members and owners including the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans District 7, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port of Long Beach. Initiatives include discussing current and future owner design and construction programs as well as:

- City of Los Angeles - facilitating permitting for private development projects and helping consulting engineers understand City of Los Angeles processes
- Caltrans District 7 - informing consultants on current and forecasted fiscal and workforce status and organizational changes
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority - streamlining procurement processes
- Port of Long Beach - informing consultants on QA/QC procedures and the Port's efforts to both develop new QA/QC procedures and update guidelines for professional services; construction project technical challenges at the Port; and education on "standard of care" for professional services and its influence on future professional services contracts

Environmental Enhancements

With the creation of the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), many Chapter members have been involved in the development of the new ISI rating system, and several members have become ISI-certified ENVISION Sustainability Professionals (ENV SP). Many Chapter members are also LEED and Qualified SWPPP/Qualified SWPPP Practitioner certified; participate on the State Land Use and Environment Committee; and support ACEC's Land Development Coalition.

